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Pikes Peak Lavender Film Festival

Bringing Quality International Gay, Lesbian, Transgender Films to Colorado Springs

P. O. Box 1987 Colorado Springs, CO 80901
voice: (719) 38MOVIE www.lavenderfilms.org email: info@lavenderfilms.org

EVERYONE WELCOME AT LAVENDER FILM FESTIVAL

The 2nd annual Pikes Peak Lavender Film Festival, September 14-16 at the Fine Arts Center, succeeds at being both entertaining and enlightening. The festival offers a wide array of fascinating films with lesbian, gay, transgender and bisexual stories and characters. The themes are universal and the scope is international.

This year's program includes films from five continents. Opening night (Friday, September 14, 6:30 p.m.) begins with a catered reception followed by the controversial offering *The Monkey's Mask*. Based on Dorothy Parker's acclaimed erotic murder mystery, the film stars Kelly McGillis as a poetry professor and Susie Porter as a lesbian detective. At other festivals, the Machiavellian nature of the lead detective has inspired heated discussions. *The Monkey's Mask* opened this year's London Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.

Opening night also features, from Thailand, *Iron Ladies (Sa-tree-lex)*, the winner of audience awards at festivals throughout the world. A lesbian coach assembles volleyball "dream team" from an unlikely assortment of wild characters. Eventually the crew becomes a cohesive unit and contends for a championship. Along the journey they face parental shame, homophobic violence and public discrimination. This sometimes hilarious and always heart-warming film is based on a true story.

On Saturday, the festival resumes at 11:30 a.m. with the winner of the Best Documentary Award at this year's Sundance, San Francisco and Toronto festivals. *Southern Comfort* follows the stories of transgender people living deep inside Ku Klux Klan country. At 1:30 p.m. from Argentina comes a theatrical reenactment of true events, *Burnt Money (Plata Quemada)*, a torrid, violent tale of three men whose crime spree kept Argentina and Uruguay in terror for two months in 1965. *Burnt Money* boasts awards from both Spain and Cuba.

At 4:00 p.m., the festival goes to Paris with *The Girl*, an American-French collaboration with English dialog. Director Sande Zeig and author Monique

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Wittig (The Lesbian Body) take us on an exhilarating journey of love, obsession and betrayal. At 6:15 it's time for the applauded comedic romance All Over the Guy that illustrates the pitfalls and bliss of straight friends trying to "fix up" gay men. Christina Ricci and Lisa Kudrow give marvelous cameos in these men's romance. Go figure.

At 8:00 it's Julie Johnson, based upon a play once produced in Colorado Springs by the Upstart Performing Ensemble. Lili Taylor and Courtney Love find romance amidst the banality of suburban life in this touching, defiantly unconventional story of self-discovery and new beginnings.

On Sunday we're back at 11:15 a.m. with two short documentaries about South African gays and lesbians. South Africa is the only country in the world whose constitution protects gays and lesbians from discrimination. Josie (short for Johannesburg) gives us a history of this accomplishment. Dark and Lovely, Soft and Free depict rural gays in South African whose meeting places are beauty salons. The film's title refers to hair care products. Next up at 1:30 is another documentary, Love = ME3. It's a refreshing and engaging take on the classic menage a trios by Cuban-American director Agustin.

At 3:30, Adventures of Felix (Dole de Felix), in French with English subtitles, travels all over rural France with warm, tender, HIV-positive Felix who comes to terms with his life by making new friends and "relatives." At 5:45, the festival presents Quebec-based Lea Pool's Lost and Delirious, a tragic coming out story adapted from Susan Swan's novel The Wives of Bath.

This not-to-be-missed experience closes with the Colorado Springs premiere of the film we've all been waiting for, Hedwig and the Angry Inch. With wicked humor, explosive imagination, and a gold mine of original rock n' roll, John Cameron Mitchell, director and star, makes an illustrious debut with this screen adaptation of his critically acclaimed off-Broadway hit.

For more information about the films in this year's Pikes Peak Lavender Film Festival, checks the web site http://www.lavenderfilms.org or call 38-Movie. Festival passes include all 12 features, 10 shorts and two parties and cost $70 ($50 for seniors, students and low income folks). They're available at Wag-N-Wash (1625 W. Uintah Street), Spice of Life in Manitou Springs, and KRCC (912 N. Weber).

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